National Defence University, Washington. The Symposium was a sequel to an Indo-US Seminar held in Washington in Sept. 89. The Indian and American participants at the Symposium exchanges views and perceptions on various regional and global issues.

Crossing over to Burma by ULFA Chief and others

1481. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Chief of United Liberation Front of Assam alongwith extremists of Nagaland and Manipur have crossed over to Burma; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) As per news item originated from Manipur, the Chairman of ULFA had crossed over to Burma alongwith the Chairman, NSCN and Chairman UNLF. But this information could not be corroborated. However Govt. has taken various measures to intercept and apprehend the ULFA extremists while on transit from Assam to Burma and all the neighbouring States have been alerted against any possible crossing over of ULFA extremists

Per capita income

1482. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) the States which are having per capita income below the National average;

(b) the present per capita income at the National level;

(c) when the last per capita income State-wise was calculated; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the position of those States which are having per capita income below the National Average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) According to quick estimates of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at current prices for 1988-89, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have Per Capita NSDP below the all India Per Capita. Net National Product, (NNP). Estimates in respect of Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura are not available for 1988-89. However, on the basis of latest figures for 1986-87 for which the estimates are available, out of these States, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya & Tripura had per capita NSDP below the all India Per capita NNP in 1986-87.

(b) The per capita all India NNP for 1988-89 is Rs. 3835/-.

(c) 19 States have made available their income estimates for 1988-89 to CSO. For other states, the latest estimates relate to 1986-87 or 1987-88.

(d) The steps taken to improve per capita income are, increased investments/outlays for the development of infrastructure, agriculture, rural development, irrigation, industries, education, health, employment and better utilisation of invested capital. Moreover, per capita income, is one of the criteria taken into consideration while allocating central assistance to States (other than special category states) for financing their Plans

Covert agencies involved in subversive activities in Punjab

1483 SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that covert agencies belonging to some big

countries are involved in subversive activities in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to probe the activities of foreign agencies which are funding to the militants in Punjab; and

(c) the details of the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY). (a) to (c) Information on the subject is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

Methodology for determining the consumer price indices

1484 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) what are the existing series of index number to cover different groups of workers/people for purposes of price indices,

(b) what is the methodology for determining consumer price indices,

(c) in what ways the existing series of consumer price indices reflect the changes in the cost of living of various groups of people in rural and urban areas; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government to build up a composite consumer price index number series so as to properly assess the changes in the cost of living in rural and urban areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN) (a) The Central Government complies the following three series of consumer price index (CPI) numbers:-

(i) Consumer Price Index for industrial workers with 1982 as the base year,

(ii) Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers with 1960-61 as the base years; and

(iii) Consumer Price Index for urban non-manual employees with 1984-85 as the base year

(b) The methodology broadly comprise determining of the basket of goods and services which represent the consumer expenditure pattern of the target population for which the CPI is to be compiled, and collection of consumer prices for the base year and subsequent months on a regular basis The prices are collected from representative outlets which are patronised by the target population All the three consumer price indices are compiled on monthly basis

(c) The CPI measures the change in the consumer expenditure of a fixed basket of items on account of changes in the consumer prices of these items over a period of time with reference to the base year of the series

(d) At present, the Government does not contemplate building a composite CPI series for urban and rural population

Banning of certain dangerous fire works

1485 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of banning certain types of dangerous fire works used during various festivals in the country to avoid mishaps and fire incidents caused by such fire works;

(b) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard, and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) Government have prohibited the manufacture, possession and information of any explosive consisting of or containing Sulphur or Sulphuret in admixture with chlorate of potassium or any other Chlorate as they are known to cause mishaps.

(c) Does not arise.